

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NO, NATO, EC

SUBJECT: HARTMAN-NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSION ON
ENERGY AND YEAR OF EUROPE

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN MET WITH AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT JANUARY 23. SOMMERFELT ASKED IF THE ENERGY CRISIS HAD PUSHED THE YEAR OF EUROPE DECLARATIONS INTO THE BACKGROUND. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT THEY WERE GOING AHEAD AND THAT, AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE ENERGY CRISIS HAS DEMONSTRATED DRAMATICALLY THE NEED FOR THE CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG THE ATLANTIC ALLIES WHICH THE DECLARATIONS ARE TO EXPRESS. HARTMAN NOTED THAT THE NATO DECLARATION SEEMED TO BE GOING PRETTY WELL WITH ONLY ONE OR TWO ISSUES STILL OUTSTANDING. THE EC DECLARATION IS NOW BEING REDRAFTED AND WHEN IT IS FINISHED, HARTMAN AND SONNENFELDT WOULD GO TO BONN (PROBABLY AFTER THE ENERGY ACTION GROUP MEETING) TO DISCUSS IT. HARTMAN INDICATED THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN DECIDED ABOUT THE SCENARIO FOR THE SIGNING, BUT THOUGHT
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WAS STILL BEING GIVEN TO A POSSIBLE TRIP BY THE PRESIDENT

AND TO HOLDING THE SIGNING CEREMONY AROUND THE TIME OF THE NATO ANNIVERSARY.

2. ON ENERGY MEETING, HARTMAN NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S INDICATION IN HIS LETTER OF INVITATION THAT HE WOULD SEND AN EMISSARY (PRESUMABLY UNDER SECRETARY DONASON) TO TALK

ABOUT THE MEETING WAS BEING RECONSIDERED, AS OUR PREPARATIONS ARE GOING MORE SLOWLY THAN ANTICIPATED. CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE IDEA OF CARRYING ON CONSULTATIONS THROUGH THE EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON AND HOLDING A PREPARATORY MEETING JUST BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 11 OPENING. HOPEFULLY THESE QUESTIONS WOULD BE SETTLED BY WEEK'S END. OTHER ISSUES STILL TO BE DISCUSSED WERE THE NUMBER OF SUGGESTED TASK FORCES AND THE SPECIFIC COMPOSITION OF THE US DELEGATION. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD SEND HIGH LEVEL DELEGATIONS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN. SOMMERFELT CONFIRMED THAT FONMIN FRYDENLUND WOULD BE COMING. (MISSION HAS NOW BEEN INFORMED ON COMPOSITION.)

3. SOMMERFELT ASKED ABOUT COMPLAINTS FROM COUNTRIES NOT I CLUDE IN THE EAG. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT TWO COUNTRIES HAD INDEED COMPLAINED BUT HE FORESAW NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THIS RESPECT FOR THE FIRST MEETING. AT THAT MEETING DECISIONS MUST BE TAKEN ON HOW TO WORK WITH THE PRODUCERS AND THE OTHER CONSUMERS. HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE USE OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS--THE IMF, THE GROUP OF TWENTY OR THE OED--A- SOME FUTURE TIME. HE WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF CREATING A NEW ORGANIZATION AND THOUGHT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL OF A WORLD-WIDE ENERGY CONFERENCE UNDER THE UN WAS NOT A SENSIBLE WAY TO BEGIN TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM. SOMMERFELT WAS PLEASED THAT SECRETARY SHULTZ MIGHT BE A MEMBER OF THE US DELEGATION, MEANING THAT THE BROADER EFFECTS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS COULD BE CONSIDERED.

4. ASKED ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF US-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS, SOMMERFELT REPLIED THAT THERE WERE FEW PROBLEMS. HE CITED NORWEGIAN UNHAPPINESS THAT IT IS BEING USED AS A CONFIDENTIAL

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TEST CASE IN THE EXAMINATION OF RULES OF ORIGIN. HARTMAN ASSURED HIM THE NORWEGIAN AGREEMENT JUST HAPPENED TO BE THE NEXT ONE COMING UP FOR REVIEW SO THE CHOICE WAS NOT DELIBERATE. HE KNEW THAT OTHERS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT RULES OF ORIGIN AND WELCOMED OUR PRESSURES. SOMMERFELT NOTED NORWAY'S INTEREST IN THE ICELAND BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND WAS ASSURED THAT HE WOULD BE KEPT INFORMED. RUSH

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